

succeeded. Growing legions of friends of Tibet around the world join them in their fight. This anniversary reminds us that the struggle will be long, but it also reminds us that ultimately it will be successful.

NURSING HOME RESIDENT PROTECTION AMENDMENTS OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 540, the Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments. This much needed legislation will protect nursing home residents from being unfairly evicted just because they are on Medicaid. I commend my colleagues from Florida, Mr. DAVIS and Mr. BILIRAKIS, for introducing this measure and I am very proud to support it.

Mr. Speaker, this bill prohibits nursing homes that decide to withdraw from the Medicaid program from evicting current residents already admitted under the Medicaid program.

Nursing home residents should not have to live in fear of eviction simply because they must depend on Medicaid for help in paying their nursing home bills. After we pass this bill and get it signed into law, families can be confident their elderly loved ones won't be evicted because of economic factors.

This is a problem in the United States today. One nursing home in Florida tried to evict Medicaid residents and replace them with higher-paying, privately insured residents last year. After a relative of one of the residents of that Florida nursing home brought suit, a federal judge issued an injunction and the residents were allowed to remain in the nursing home. The Wall Street Journal reported last year that similar evictions were attempted at thirteen homes in nine states. We cannot allow this to happen.

Under the Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments, a nursing home that decides to withdraw from Medicaid must provide notice to future residents that it no longer participates in the program and won't accept Medicaid payments. Existing residents, however, are protected.

Mr. Speaker, all of us want to do something to help our senior citizens. We talk about that every day in Congress, sometimes in terms of saving Social Security, sometimes in terms of strengthening Medicare. But today, we can do more than just talk about helping our seniors. Today, we can actually do something to help millions of our senior citizens who face the real threat of being unfairly evicted from their nursing homes. Let's pass H.R. 540. Let's help our senior citizens. Let's protect them from these unfair evictions.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE ANTONIO CRUZ CRUZ

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, January 29, 1999, the island of Guam lost one of its most prominent legislators. The Honorable Antonio Cruz Cruz passed away at the age of 86.

A member of the House of Assembly during the days of the Guam Congress and an eight-term member of the Guam Legislature, the late Senator Cruz was one of the most honored and active members of the Democratic Party on Guam. Better known as "Ton Gaga," he was born in the city of Hagåtña on May 21, 1912—the son of Maria Perez Cruz and Vicente Iglesias Franquez.

He attended the Guam Public High School and later worked as a clerk messenger for the Naval Government's Department of Public Works and the Bank of Guam in the late 1920's and early 1930's. After holding on the position of bookkeeper at the Bank of Guam for several years in the 1930's, he gained employment with the government serving in administrative capacities for a Refugee Camp in the mid-1940's, the Land Claims Commission, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, and the Federal Housing Administration.

Prior to being elected to the Guam Legislature, Senator Cruz served as a member of the pre-Organic Act Guam Congress and House of Assembly, serving from 1946 to 1950. He was elected to the Guam Legislature serving in the First through the Sixth legislatures. At the conclusion of the First Session of the Sixth Legislature, Senator Cruz opted to resign in order to fill the post of chief of the Department of Labor and Personnel's Retirement Division. Later that year, he was named assistant Director of the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority. He also served in the Ninth and Tenth Legislatures.

In the eight terms that he served in the Legislature, the late senator introduced and cosponsored numerous bills focused on the issues of education. He was instrumental in establishing a student loan program, developing the Government of Guam retirement system, enhancing personnel benefits for government employees, and funding a number of community projects.

Taking time off his official duties, the former senator always made it a point to be an active member in the village of Barrigada. He served as Secretary for the Barrigada Democratic Party of Guam Precinct. In addition, he also served as Vice-President and Treasurer of the Holy Name Society at San Vicente Catholic Church.

The legacy he leaves behind includes over three decades of government service, of which twenty years were spent as Assemblyman and senator. I join his widow, the former Mercedes Garrido Camacho, and their children Julia, Joseph, David, John, Frank, and Edward in celebrating his accomplishment and mourning the loss of a dutiful husband, a loving father and fellow legislator. Adios Senator Cruz.

March 10, 1999

CHARTER DAY CLOSING AT THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you a speech I recently heard at my alma mater, the College of William and Mary. It was delivered by the President of the College, Timothy J. Sullivan, at the college's Charter Day ceremonies on February 6, 1999 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Charter Day, which is held annually, commemorates the anniversary of the granting of the royal charter by King William III and Queen Mary II for the establishment of the college in 1693.

CHARTER DAY CLOSING

(President Timothy J. Sullivan, February 6, 1999)

"I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just." So wrote Thomas Jefferson—about slavery—the great stain on our national story. Might we not today—for different reasons—borrow Jefferson's words. Should not we "tremble for our country when we consider that God is just?"

Our President has broken a bond of precious trust. He has degraded the great office that was our gift to him. He has embarrassed his country. And if that were all, it would be tragedy enough.

But this is not a one-man show. The full dimensions of this sad tale verge on the operatic—with principal players—secondary figures—extras by the hundreds—and multiple story-lines.

And no matter how many times the tenor gets stabbed, he'll sing loud enough to reach the cheap seats.

It is as sickening as it is astounding—an American epic that most wish would just go away.

But it will not. Nor should we delude ourselves that closure beckons with the end of the impeachment process. It may take a long time to fully measure what this means for our Republic or to discover what we have done to ourselves.

For in the end, it is to ourselves that we must turn. Leaders do not spring from the ground in full flower. We grow them, water them, allow them to bloom—we the people—we bear the ultimate responsibility for the Republic. Whatever it becomes says much about what we have become. So—yes—the impeachment debacle is cause for pain. But what really worries me—what causes me to "tremble for my country"—is the almost certain accelerating effect that this sorry spectacle will have upon an already cynical popular view of politics, of politicians and of the making of public policy.

For at least a generation we have borne the burden of politicians—some in office—some merely hungry for office—who have based their campaigns—indeed their careers on the crackpot notion that our government—the American government—is the mortal enemy—of our liberty—of our honor—of our legitimate aspirations.

It is one thing—and a right thing—to argue about the cost of government—about its scope—about its competence. These are legitimate—these are vital issues. It is quite another to suggest that by its very nature our freely elected government is evil. That idea—in our America—is historically inaccurate—constitutionally unimaginable—and profoundly dangerous.